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THE SPECTATOR

HAMILTON COLLEGE

VOLUME VI | CLINTON, N. Y., FRIDAY , DECEMBER 19, 1952 | NUMBER 11

New Delays Force Ice Rink To Open After Christmas

Because of delays in the installation of three electric transformers and insulation necessary for the proper operation of the plant artificial ice will not be ready in the hockey building before school adjourns for Christmas vacation tomorrow, according to Mox Weber, professor of physical education.

Carpenters and electricians are now working on the rink, but they will not be finished until next week. Then, if all goes well, water will be poured over the pipes, and freezing will begin.

Although neither Weber nor William Humphreys, supervisor of the athletic plant, nor workers of the C. W. Davis Supply Co. would set a definite date for the completion, each hoped that the rink would be ready by December 28, at which time the hockey team will return for early practice and an inter-high school hockey tournament will begin.

Weber said, "We are almost positive of having ice by the 28th and certainly it will be ready by the time school reopens."

Paul Parker Says We're All 'Chumps' In Squires Speech

"We're all chumps, and we might as well admit it," Professor Paul Parker stated in his lecture on "Chumps and Huckstes" in the Chemistry Auditorium Monday evening. "The prize chump, though," he said, "is the one who thinks he is motivated by rational means."

Parker described a few of the appeals that advertising has for the American public. Masculine supremacy appeals to the modern man, though everyone knows that "the only place you can find it is on television." Prospective buyers are often also influenced by the endorsement of a product by a famous personality. Ads showing how to overcome a feeling of inadequacy have great appeal, too, Parker said.

Parker stated that the success of advertising rests largely on the fact that "the rational mind of a person says the product won't work; the emotional mind says it might." Advertisers go to great pains to "create ideal situations" which will attract the emotions of the buying public.

Library To Offer "Unique Service"

"A new service, something unique for an American college, will be inaugurated by the Library shortly after Christmas vacation," Walter Pilkington announced today.

Pilkington did not disclose the nature of the service, but said that it would benefit the entire College community. It will be located on the second floor of the Library, and will be opened in a ceremony to take place sometime during the first or second week in January.

It's Better To Give Than To Receive — Or Is It?

By William Hamilton
Dean Of The Chapel

Not only are the non-religious things we say and do pretty well standardized at Christmas time, but our religious words and phrases have become almost as empty as well. We all have learned by now to take a properly dim view of what we call the "commercialization" of the holiday; though few of us have a sharp awareness of the reality that is supposed to be corrupted. Even more alarming, however, is the way our religious words about Christmas have become flat and stereotyped. A sermon by the late Peter Marshall, recently published in *Look* magazine, is a fine example of the Christmas season used as a means to extoll the human virtues of friendliness, kindness and family affection. Now there is nothing wrong with these things. But the last time I looked, Christmas was (at least by definition) a Christian festival, and not even the most ardent apologist for the Christian faith would dare claim that kindness came into society for the first time at the moment of Christ's birth.

One of the interesting Biblical sentences that is often used to describe Christmas is: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Is this a lot of nonsense, or is it true? It is clearly nonsense in one quite clearly defined way. It is surely not the case that the ordinary human individual, as we know him today, always finds the giving of gifts more blessed than the receiving of them. Let's look at our childhood. Surely our inability to sleep the night through before Christmas, our early rising, and our eager waking of our parents, was not based on our anticipated delight in seeing how our family would react to the things we had bought them. We were excited because we wanted to get downstairs to see if we had received the things we'd asked for. So, at least in our childhood, this blessedness of giving was a pretty dim conception for us.

Probably as we grow older, and begin to spend a little more thought on gifts for girl-friends, wives, and later children, the Biblical phrase may take on a little more point. But the Biblical phrase does not attempt to describe us as we are. It rather describes us as we ought to be but are not. "Blessed," in other words, is the operative word here. This is not merely an unctuous and Elizabethan way of talking about happiness. It is a technical term for religion; and so our phrase really means that the highest human perfection we can know is never in getting and absorbing, but in giving and service.

So this Biblical phrase, so innocent on the surface, becomes —as so much of the Bible does—a diagnosis of our inadequacy, a pointer to the contradiction in our own selves. We live in a society that prefers getting as much as possible, while it pays lip-service to the opposite virtues of humility and giving.

The Christian gospel, then, starts with a diagnosis of the human predicament—the good that we want to do is what we do not do, and the evil that we do not want to do is what we do. And to that diagnosis it prescribes a cure: it makes the absurd statement (absurd, at least, in face of the ideals that inform the modern academic community) that the meaning for human history, and the meaning for individual lives is revealed in the obscure birth of a Jewish child in a cow-barn, some two thousand years ago. It is to *his* life, and death, and resurrection, and not to our practice, that we point as validation for the phrase: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Hill Critic "Sings" Praises Of Choir's Hunter Concert

By Rusty Kerr

A capacity crowd flowed into the College Gymnasium last Saturday evening, for the second performance by the Hamilton College Choir of a joint concert with Hunter College, and enjoyed one of the finest concerts presented on this campus in recent years.

The featured work of the evening, Heinrich Schutz' *Christmas Story,* with the combined choirs, was in perfect control under the iron hand of director John Baldwin. The work included four soloists of which Alfred Prettyman, as Herod, and Carol Seitz, as the second angel, rendered superior performances. Prettyman's rich baritone voice was supported by good breath control which was most obviously displayed in the clarity of his runs. Carol Seitz, soprano, possessed a sprightly vigor and accuracy which was especially delightful in the solo, "Get thee up, Joseph."

John G. Ferris, as the Evan-

(Continued on Page 2)

Nation To Hear Choir On Mutual Hookup

By Jim Schade

The Hamilton College Choir, directed by John L. Baldwin, Jr., will present a half hour radio program of epiphany music over the Mutual Broadcasting System on January 4 on a nation-wide radio hookup. The program was transcribed last Tuesday evening in a four and one-half hour session.

The program will be the same as the one presented with the Hunter Choir except for the omission of the oratorio, *The Christmas Story,* and the addition of two other selections. The two numbers to be added are Christopher Tye's sixteenth century anthem, *Laudate Nomen Domini* and the Russian anthem, *Lo, a Voice to Heaven Sounding.*

Senior Tony du Bourg supervised the recording of the program. When asked to comment about the success of the lengthy Tuesday night session, du Bourg said, "All those associated with the choir have reason to be extremely proud of this organization. It was a privilege to work with them." Du Bourg used his own equipment to record the program.

This is the first nation-wide broadcast since Paul A. Fancher's Hamilton choir sang on a national hook up ten or twelve years ago. Dick Hehemyer, who served as a staff announcer over WMTR in Morristown, New Jersey last summer, announced the program.

Charlatans Stage Last Performance Of Fall Production

By Dan Fulmer

When Shakespeare said in his too often-quoted remark that "one man in his time plays many parts," he could not have meant that *one* woman in *one* dramatic production should play *two* parts.

We refer, of course, to Mrs. Ethel Cameron, who enacted the part of Lady Weston in the first two performances of the Charlatans' *Kind Lady* last week and then tackled the title role of Mary Herries in the final presentation of the play Tuesday night, after Mrs. Robert Barnes Rudd's husband became ill Friday, forcing Mrs. Rudd to leave the cast.

The house was well-filled for the performance Tuesday evening. There were many students, faculty members and wives, Uticans and friends of the College in the area in the audience who had been disappointed by Mrs. Rudd's exit from the cast. They were unable to attend the first two performances because of hour exams and other conflicting activities. But they all wanted to see *Kind Lady.*

So it was an anxious audience, a more fearful leading lady, Mrs. Cameron, a worried director, Bill Woodman, and a cast, willing to support Mrs. Cameron to the utmost. Mrs.

(Continued on page 4)

Wallace Johnson Visits Middle East

Wallace B. Johnson, secretary of the College, has left for a seven-week vacation tour of the Middle East.

He left New York City December 10 on the S. S. Constitution, and after a stay in Italy, will go to Athens, where he will spend Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. William E. Weld, Jr. Weld is the brother of Mrs. George Nesbitt and was graduated from Hamilton in 1935.

Johnson's itinerary after Christmas will take him to Beirut, Lebanon, where he will spend New Year's Day with Mr. and Mrs. David Wilder. Wilder, librarian here on the Hill until June 1950, is now librarian at the American University in Beirut. Also, while in Beirut, Johnson plans a visit with Mr. and Mrs. George Lenczowski. Lenczowski was associate professor of political science here from 1946 to 1951.

From Beirut, Johnson plans a trip to Baghdad, Iraq, Paris, then London, where he will sail for home on the S. S. United States January 24, arriving in New York City on the 29th.

Buffers Give Hill Publicity Benefits

The Buffers, the College Octet, have been serving as an unofficial public relations department this year.

In addition to singing for the Union Weekend and Fall House Party, the Buffers have sung for various men's clubs and churches in the Utica area. On December 7, they participated in the Smith College Octet Concert, which annually draws the finest male octettes of the Eastern colleges.

On December 23, the Buffers will journey to Inglewood, New Jersey for a charity ball for the cerebral palsy fund raising campaign. The Buffers also sang for Dr. and Mrs. A. Percy Saunder's Christmas party for the faculty on December 8. Dr. Saunders is a Professor Emeritus of Chemistry here.

The Buffers were first organized in September, 1951. There are four original members in this year's octet. They are Irv Reid, '53, baritone; Bob Abrams, '53, second tenor; Dave Hastings, '53, second bass; and Ed Draffin, '54, first tenor.

The other members of the Buffers are Dave Sagman, '55, second bass; Tom Fischer, '55, baritone; Al Saunders, '54, second tenor; and Gordon Bourns, '56, first tenor.

Irv Reid and Bob Abrams do the special arrangements.

VACATION TO BEGIN

Christmas vacation will begin tomorrow immediately after the fourth period and will end at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, January 5.

THE SPECTATOR
HAMILTON COLLEGE

Friday, December 19, 1952

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Review . . . Cont.

gelist, after some initial nervousness, delivered his difficult solos intact, but we suspect poor breath control necessitated forcing the high tones which were of a constricted quality and sometimes flat. Marilyn Webb acquitted herself well in another difficult role, as the first angel, displaying technical accuracy in her solos, but a somewhat fuller voice would have better suited the part for such a large auditorium. For both soloists their middle and low tones were best, and diction was excellent throughout. In the final chorus of the *Christmas Story,* director Baldwin led the choruses in a finale of sustained power and beauty.

In Bach's well-known, *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring,* the opening number for the second half of the program, the Hunter Choir under the baton of Dr. Anders Emile displayed a richness of tone, a balanced blend of voices and a clarity of diction which made this and their subsequent selections thoroughly enjoyable.

Choir Precise

The Hamilton College Choir sang with the precision of a new metronome and the warmth of a beautiful girl the entire evening. *Of the Father's Love Begotten* displayed the flowing tone so necessary for this music. Alfred Prettyman was again in top form for his solo in *Three Kings* but we would prefer a more pronounced pianissimo to complement the reverent mood of the final line in this selection. Edward Draffin and Albert Saunders are to be congratulated for their solos, though we would quibble with Saunder's phrasing of his final line in *Carol of the Flowers.*

The work of both choruses was of such superior quality that we expect invitations from Town Hall any day.

Schools Debate Here

Jamestown High School and Poughkeepsie High School were the Class A and B winners, respectively in the New York State High School Debate Tournament held here the weekend of December 6.

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Debate Club Winds Up Semester With Two Tournament Successes

Hamilton's novice debate teams won first place in the novice division at the annual Vermont University tournament held November 21. The novice group, consisting of Herman Harding and Neil MacLean of the affirmative; and Bob Kreutzer and Kedar Adour of the negative, won eight of nine debates.

Hamilton's varsity was represented by Sheldon Glass and George Lowerre of the affirmative, and Robin Hollaway and Calvin Torrance of the negative. Among more than 40 schools at the debate were: Army, CCNY, Columbia, Harvard, Navy, NYU, Princeton, St. Lawrence, Tufts, Yale and Williams.

Two novice teams also attended a debate at Colgate University last weekend. Representing the affirmative were Gary Green, Gene Granof, Herman Harding and Neil Maclean. For the negative were Michael Demet, Dick Plotka, Melvin Rosh and Martin Gondelman.

On January 13 Rocco Solimando and Conny Ring will speak before the Rome Rotary Club, defending the proposition that "Cooperation is a better policy for Western Euope than Fedeation." The same day Jay Williams and Murray Goldstone will speak before the Rome Junior Chamber of Commerce on the national debate topic, "Resolved: that the Congress of the

(Continued on page 4)

Two Hill Squads Downed By Foes

Christmas bells call a temporary truce on the intercollegiate and intramural sports scene and give all concerned a welcome respite. For the basketball team, it will be a time of recuperation after a convincing 83-56 setback by Williams, which was the second consecutive defeat for the Hillmen. For the swimmers, it is hoped that the vacation will mean a change of luck for a fighting team which has dropped two straight meets. For the hockey team, the end of vacation will mean a new indoor rink on which to practise; for wrestling enthusiasts, the first of next year signifies a new wrestling club.

Last week Williams demonstrated its basketball power by handing Hamilton a bad beating. Tall forward Ron Wilson led their attack with 21 points, while Otto Badenhausen was the Blue's high man with 13.

Our tankmen also ran into trouble with a superior Union squad and lost the meet 62-22. Union won eight of 11 events, and tied another. Hamilton's victories came as Charlie Bates won the 220-yard freestyle, and John Kuck won the diving. Howie Tobias cracked the College record of 1:54 for the individual medley, as he tied with Union's Jim Metzger. The Garnet's Tom O'Neil and Neil Hartman set new pool records in the 440-yard freestyle and 200-yard backstroke respectively.

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Charlatans . . Cont.

Lucy Lewis had also stepped into the cast at the last moment to take over Mrs. Cameron's previous role, that of Lucy Weston.

The finished product and Mrs. Cameron were nothing short of sensational. The audience, the director and the cast were "wowed." Mrs. Cameron had learned the lines and developed the character of Mary Herries in her free time in four days. And the job she did was acclaimed by most as "marvelous."

One woman who had seen all three performances summed up the reaction of the audience on the final performance of *Kind Lady*. "It was like seeing two different productions altogether. Both Mrs. Rudd and Mrs. Cameron's interpretations of the part of Mary Herries were quite different," she said, " and in their respective rights, they were both excellent."

Civil Service Test

The Civil Service Commission has announced an examination for Student Aid Trainee paying $2,950 and $3,175 a year. Most of the positions are located in various Federal agencies in Washington, D. C., and vicinity.

Full information regarding the training program and the requirements for applying are available at most first- and second-class post offices.

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Debate Club . . . Cont.

United States should adopt a Compulsory Federal Employment Practices Commission." These activities are sponsored by the Debate Club's Extension Speaking Program.

Gregory Asks Help

Assistant Director of Admissions, Thom Gregory, '50, speaking in Thursday assembly, urged students to do all they can over the Christmas holidays to encourage sub-freshmen to visit the Hill. "Talk to them enthusiastically about the College, and you will be aiding our job tremendously," he stated.

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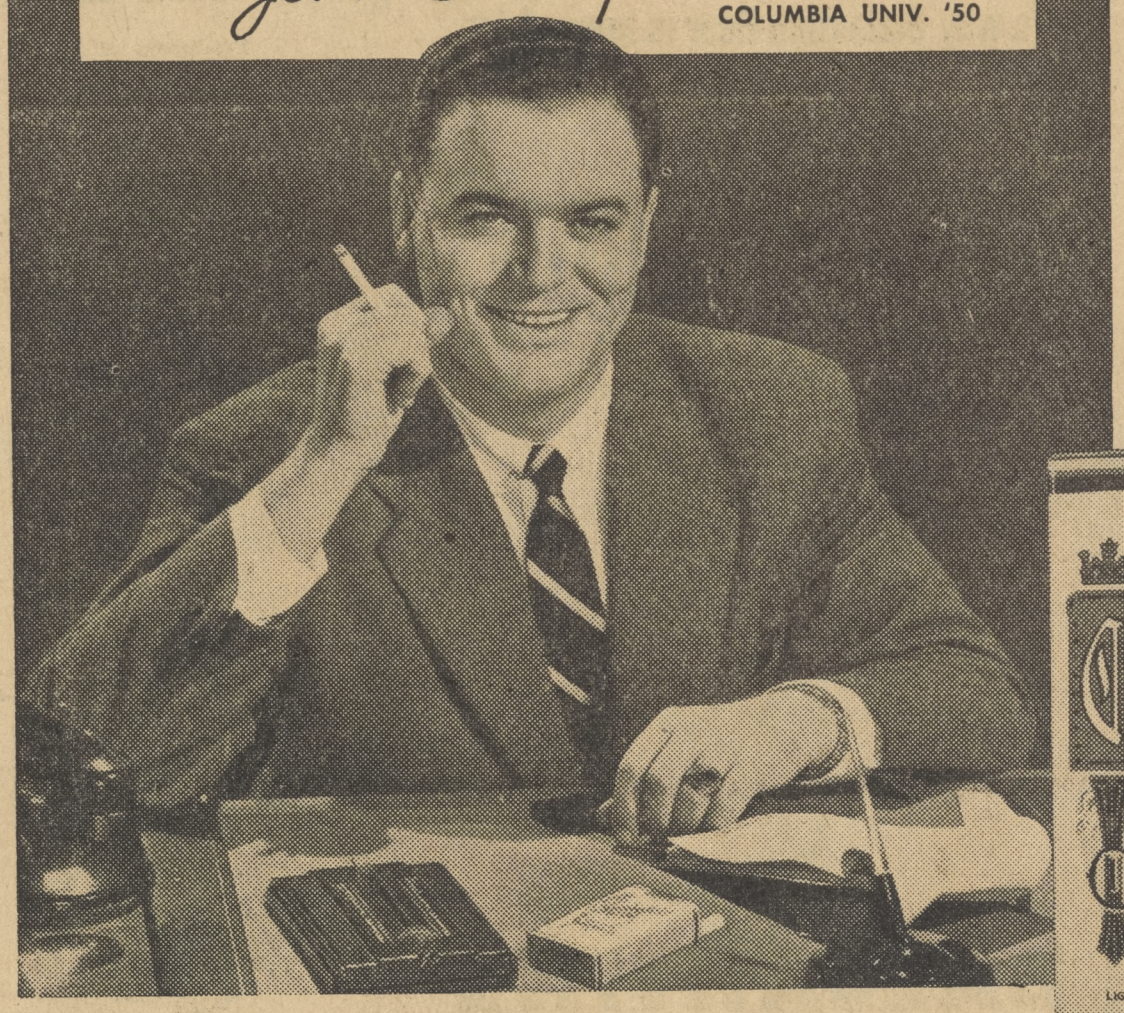

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